

law allows, and paid all the teachers for seven months and a-half. Under the old arrangement, individual schools were frequently suspended until the public money should accumulate. In the records of a school now before me, I find a suspension from July 4, 1864, to January 14, 1865; and I do not doubt that in many other records, if accurately kept, the fact of frequent interruptions will be found. It was rarely noticed, because the suspension was never at any time general throughout the County, except at vacations.

The supervision of the schools has been very thorough—every school having been visited and examined repeatedly by some one of the Commissioners, and often by two.

The teachers are far better fitted to the work; in cases where the old incumbents have been retained, they manifest and express a much more earnest spirit in their labors; a professional pride is springing up, and a degree of zeal awakened heretofore unknown in this part of Maryland. An active and vigorous Teachers' Association was formed immediately after the adoption of the system with excellent results. Teachers soon gained higher views of their responsibilities, and duties and more elevated conceptions of their position in society. Indeed, the indications are very strong that the days of lesson-hearing are numbered, and that teaching is to supercede the drudgery of lessons "got by heart."

The living teacher is taking the place of the inanimate Text Book:

At the close of the scholastic year, the teachers of this County, with a portion of those of the adjoining County of Queen Anne, met at Chestertown to organize a Teachers' Institute.

The accommodations were poor, but the meeting was a grand success. It was to most of the members a new thing, but under the admirable management of Professors Newell and Leakin, all immediately entered into the spirit of the work, and were inspired with an enthusiasm heretofore unknown. Unfortunately, through the negligence of our secretary, the proceedings were not prepared for publication.

A noteworthy incident occurred at this meeting. A gentleman who had expressed his disapprobation of the Institute, alleging that the time of the teachers was taken up to the detriment of the children of the schools, came in to one of our sessions, and after hearing a lecture and witnessing the subsequent exercises, sat down and wrote for one of our local papers, an article, claiming that the benefit of the Institute to our County was incalculably great! No pupils from this County were entered at the Normal School during the year, the applicants being all under age. The saving to the County in the matter of Text-Books from the adoption of the principle of uniformity, has been very large. No longer are parents and guardians taxed with every change